PATENT CLAIMS

1. A method for automatic configuration of an automation component of an automation system,

   characterized by

   - provision of a server which is connected to a client via communication means and in which a plurality of configuration data records are stored, with the server and the client each representing one automation component,
   - request (S1, S5) for one of the plurality of configuration data records by the client,
   - transmission (S2, S6) of the requested configuration data record by the server, and
   - storage of the transmitted configuration data record in the client.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, with the request for the configuration data record (S1, S5) comprising a selection from the plurality of configuration data records as a function of the functionality of the client.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, with a plurality of configuration data records corresponding to the functionality of the client being stored in the server for selection by the client.

4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims with the additional step of autonomous identification (S4) of the client within a defined machine context.

5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, with at least two of the plurality of configuration data records being stored locally in the client.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, with one of the at least two stored configuration data records being activated (S3, S7) in the client for its operation.

7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, with firmware data records being stored in addition to the configuration data records in the server such that they can be called up, with one of the firmware data records being requested by the client, and with the requested firmware data record being stored in the client and being activated.

8. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the client communication is matched to the automation system such that the client can be started up during continuous operation of the automation system.

9. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, with the client and the server running on a single automation appliance.

10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, with the configuration data records for different machine upgrade levels for one machine being loaded in the server by an engineering system.

11. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, with a configuration data record in the client automatically being loaded in the server.

12. A method for starting up an automation component in an automation system by

- requesting a communication address for starting up and activation of this communication address,
- configuration (S1, S2) of a client, which represents an automation component, as claimed in one of the preceding claims, using a first

configuration data record by means of which its own functionality can be identified (S4), and subsequent automatic activation (S3) of this first configuration data record, as well as

- configuration (S5, S6) of the client as claimed in one of the preceding claims using a second configuration data record corresponding to its identified functionality, and activation (S7) of the second configuration data record.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, with the configuration data records for different machine upgrade levels for a machine being stored in advance in the server by an engineering system, such that they can be requested and activated at a later start-up time for the machine, by means of operator inputs on the machine.

14. An automation system which has a plurality of automation components, having

- a client which represents one automation component, and
- a server which likewise represents one automation component and is connected to the client via communication means,

characterized in that

- a plurality of configuration data records can be stored in the server,
- the client can automatically request one of the plurality of configuration data records,
- the server can transmit a requested configuration data record to the client, and
- a transmitted configuration data record can be stored in the client.